

FACTS for FEATURES



CB04-FF.16

August 31, 2004



Halloween 2004: Oct. 31



The observance of Halloween, which dates from the Dark Ages, has long been associated with thoughts of the dead, witches, ghosts, devils and other hobgoblins. In the United States, the first recorded instance of a Halloween celebration occurred in Anoka, Minn., in 1921.

“Trick or Treat!”



36.8 million

The estimated number of potential “trick-or-treaters” — 5- to 13-year-olds — across the United States in 2003, a decline of 274,000 from 2000. Of course, many “kids” older than 13, and younger than 5, also dress up for the holiday.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/001703.html>>

14

Number of states that, contrary to the national trend, experienced an increase in their elementary school-age population (children between 5 and 13) between 2000 and 2003. Texas (125,000), Florida (88,000) and Arizona (66,000) — the latter two, traditionally, thought of as retirement havens — led the way. North Carolina (36,000) and Nevada (35,000) followed. Nevada, at 13 percent, led the nation in the rate of increase in its elementary school-age population from 2000 to 2003.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/001703.html>>

(more)

In 2003, Utah and Alaska had the highest proportions of their populations in the 5-to-13 age group (15 percent each). California had the highest number of elementary school-age children (4.8 million) in 2003.

<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/001703.html>>

106 million

Number of potential stops for “trick-or-treaters,” i.e., housing units occupied year-round.

<<http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/housing/ahs/ahs01/tab1a1.html>>

Jack O’ Lanterns and Pies

805.3 million pounds



Total pumpkin production in states that were major producers of pumpkins in 2003. Illinois, with a production of 326 million pounds, led all states. There also were a whole lot of pumpkin patches in California, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York. Each produced more than 70 million pounds of pumpkins. The value of the pumpkins produced by these states was \$81 million.

<<http://www.usda.gov/nass/>>

Where to Spend Halloween?

Some places around the country that may put you in the Halloween mood are:



- Transylvania County, N.C. (29,406 residents).
<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/001758.html>>
- Tombstone, Ariz. (population 1,547).
<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/001856.html>>
- Pumpkin Center, N.C. (population 2,228); and Pumpkin Bend township, Ark. (population 307). <<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>>
- Cape Fear township in New Hanover County, N.C.; and Cape Fear township in Chatham County, N.C. (with populations of 15,711 and 1,170, respectively).
<<http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet>>
- Skull Creek township, Neb. (population 296).
<<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/001856.html>>

(more)

Candy and Costumes

1,040



Number of U.S. manufacturing establishments that produced chocolate and cocoa products in 2001. These establishments employed 45,913 people and shipped \$12 billion worth of goods that year. California led the nation in the number of chocolate and cocoa manufacturing establishments with 116, followed by Pennsylvania with 107.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-58.html> and

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/m01as-2.pdf>

616

Number of U.S. establishments that manufactured nonchocolate confectionary products in 2001. These establishments employed 26,400 people and shipped \$7 billion worth of goods that year. California also led the nation in this category with 75 establishments.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-58.html> and

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2003pubs/m01as-2.pdf>

25 pounds

Per capita consumption of candy by Americans in 2003; it is believed a large portion of this is consumed by kids around Halloween. But candy consumption has actually declined over the last few years: in 1997, each American gobbled or savored more than 27 pounds of the sweet stuff.

<http://www.census.gov/industry/1/ma311d03.pdf>



2,715

Number of formal wear and costume rental establishments across the nation in 2001. Trick-or-treaters rent, buy or invent the costumes they wear on Halloween.

<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2003/cb03-58.html>

Following is a list of observances typically covered by the Census Bureau's *Facts for Features* series:

Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 19)/
African American History Month (February)
Valentine's Day (Feb. 14)
Women's History Month (March)
Irish-American Heritage Month (March)/
St. Patrick's Day (March 17)
Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (May)
Older Americans Month (May)
Mother's Day (May 9)
Father's Day (June 20)
The Fourth of July (July 4)
Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act (July 26)

Back to School (August)
Labor Day (Sept. 6)
Grandparents Day (Sept. 12)
Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15)
Halloween (Oct. 31)
American Indian/Alaska Native Heritage Month
(November)
Veterans Day (Nov. 11)
Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 25)
The Holiday Season (December)



Editor's note: Some of the preceding data were collected in surveys and, therefore, are subject to sampling error. Questions or comments should be directed to the Census Bureau's Public Information Office: telephone: (301) 763-3030; fax: (301) 457-3670; or e-mail: pio@census.gov.